large scale illicit wood has been transported from North-Eastern States in grab of illegal timber. Ministry of Environment and Forests has decided to constitute a multi-disciplinary team to probe into the matter. .

New Population Policy

1716. SHRl VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to stale:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Members of the Mahila Swasth Sangh (MSS) are doing a good work in rural areas; and

(b) if so, whether Government utilise their service for implementation of the new population policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government intends to secure the involvement of all voluntary women's groups, especially those functioning at the grasroot level like Mahila Swasthya Sanghs, for the implementation of the National Population Policy 2000.

LADD technique for back disc pain

1717. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new technique called Laser Assisted Disc Decompression (LADD), is now being introduced by doctors of New Delhi Hospitals for treatment of lower back disc pain in place of the conservative treatment including strong pain killers, rest and physiotherapy and ultimately surgery; and

(b) if so, what are the views of Government or new technique, its adoption and popularisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The technique called Laser Assisted Disc Decompressions (LADD) has not been introduced in Central Government Hospitals, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Hospitals of NDMC, MCD and Government of NCT of Delhi.

(b) The Laser Assisted Disc Decompression (LADD) is not an alternative to conservative treatment. LADD system is considered only in cases of failed

conservative treatment and is still considered experimental for disc decompression as an alternative to other surgical or percutaneous procedures. Enough literature on the number of cases treated by the said technique is still not available in the western as well as Indian population. Few studies in last 5 years reported sucess' rates of 43-80% in a follow up period of upto 2 years. There is a need to collect adequate clinical data from Indian patients outlining its efficacy as compared to other similar techniques before the system is considered for adoption.

Availability of store manual at CGHS dispensaries

1718. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for non-availability of CGHS store manual and compendium in the dispensaries/medical store depots/hospitals of modern system of medicine and dispensaries/units/store depots/hospital of ISM&H under CGHS, which is an essential part of various medical and para-medical staff for directions/guidelines; and

(b) by when Government would provide the CGHS compendium and store manual to all CGHS organisations in Delhi and outside Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (d) In so far as Central Government Health Scheme is concerned, CGHS has already supplied compendium to all the dispensaries and CGHS Medical Store Depot, to follow the Store Manual of M.S.O.

T.B. Cases in Delhi

1719. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an alarming rise in TB cases in Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the estimated number of TB cases reported in the city during 1999, as compared to TB cases in the previous year;

(c) what is the number of TB cases reported since beginning of the year 2000, till date;

(d) what are the main causes identified for the rise in TB cases; and